General Klein Replies

P wt 4/1/66

In more than 10 articles, Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson have printed personal attacks on me. This letter is sent to you because of the growing concern of the misuse of our free press institutions by some columnists who are abusing the precious privileges entrusted to them, and the syndication of such articles provides those who abuse that privilege with an amplified voice that reaches millions of readers.

Drew Pearson has outdone himself in his series attempting to ruin my standing with my friends in Washington and elsewhere, my clients in Germany, and my Jewish co-religionists.

Pearson could have pilloried —and with justice—the embittered scoundrel who rifled Senator Dodd's files for Pearson to "uncover," as he phrases it.

No reputable journalist would have used material so obtained without careful check, certainly not without giving an opportunity to reply, and scrupulous avoidance of distortion.

The result was a series of highly colored innuendoes, supported by partial quotations wrenched from context, or deliberately exaggerated and distorted.

The gift by Mrs. Klein to Mrs. Dodd of a woven table scarf with a value of about $2 became a "Persian rug for the Dodd home." Letters from me to Senator Dodd became "secret instructions." A request from me to my friend of 20 years became "directions" which made an "errand boy" of a member of the most august body of legislators in the world!

I had not intended to reply at this time to Pearson's charges, but I have received so many letters from friends, co-religionists, veterans and GIs who served with me that I am compelled to raise my voice at this time. The Senate Select Committee on Standards and Ethics is investigating the matter, and there can be no doubt that the distinguished Senator from Connecticut will be found blameless.

But among the other evil insinuations by Pearson was the suggestion that I have deliberately used my position as a past national commander of the Jewish War Veterans to act as a neutralizing front for former Nazis. This suggestion has been deeply disturbing, especially to many of my Jewish friends. Pearson promised in his published column of March 5, 1958, never again to bring in the name of this fine organization in his articles about me. That promise he broke—like many others.

As a registered agent for foreign clients I am in such distinguished company as Dean Acheson and George Ball. I have letters from David Ben-Gurion, former Prime Minister of Israel, and Golda Meir, former Foreign Minister, attesting to my activities in behalf of the state of Israel. Walter Dowling, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, is on record in praise of my patriotic co-operation and service on behalf of the United States. (Pearson calls me a "German Agent." I am an American, registered under the law, like so many others, representing foreign interests in the United States which bring dollars here.)

I shall not cite here my war record which received the highest praise from General MacArthur, Admirals Nimitz and Halsey and General Eisenhower. It is a wicked deed to impugn the motives of a good Jew and a patriotic American who served his nation with devotion and honor in peace and war.

No one who knows me will believe that I have been disloyal to my profession, my friends, my country or my religion—or to my comrades-in-arms. Pearson was present at the Jewish Community banquet in Chicago only a couple of weeks ago, where he was the principal speaker, when he witnessed the tributes paid me for my activities in Jewish life and for Israel. Since then he had a chance, if he is a good reporter, to tell his readers the true facts.

I leave it to your judgment to give me the same opportunity in this answer for the 10 articles written by Pearson and Anderson in which they put the sinister connotation on my activities. My life and record is an open book. I am proud of that record.

JULIUS KLEIN,
Major General USA (Ret.)
Washington.